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The Smithsonian comes to Seaford

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News Editor*

SEAFORD -- Fences make good neighbors, it's said, and The Seaford Museum is hoping they also will be a big draw.

The Seaford Historical Society is playing host to a traveling Smithsonian Institution exhibit titled "Between Fences" through Nov. 7 at 203 High Street in the old downtown post office. The museum is open from 1 to 4 p.m. Thursday through Sunday. The fences exhibit is free, admission to the rest of the museum is \$3.

The exhibit, sponsored by the Delaware Humanities Forum, will go beyond exploring the differences between barbed wire, picket and chain-link styles, looking at larger issues of politics, business and ordinary life.

The exhibit opened in September with about 100 people attending the opening day, according to Marie Ricewick, a clerk at the museum.

"We have had wonderful crowds and tours are scheduled for children from the area schools," she said.

Also on exhibit are photos of different fences by five local photographers.

There are some examples of fences on display and an exhibit of the various types of barbed wire found around the country.

Included in the exhibition are tools, photographs, journals, postcards and posters relating to the history of fences.

There are five themes to the exhibit, "This land is my land," "Farmers and fences," "Don't fence me in," "Good fences make good neighbors," and "Building borders."

According to exhibit organizers, "Between Fences" encourages visitors to embrace the importance of a crucial aspect of personal and national heritage. As visitors explore the exhibition, encountering fences and gateways, they will get a sense of the unspoken communication and interaction that fences play in our lives. Do fences contain or exclude? When does a privacy fence become a spite fence? Do gated communities give the residents a special bond, or exclude outsiders? Further, visitors will be asked to consider both how and why we build fences, and how they reflect who we are as individuals, communities and as a nation.

Speaking about a previous exhibit in her hometown of Charlotte, Mich., Teresa M. Goforth of the Courthouse Square Association said "I must say this is by far one of the best programs we have offered to our community. Our visitation increased approximately 400 percent."

Considering the topic, Ricewick was surprised when she first saw the current display.

"It is a really nice exhibit," she said.

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